

CH-155
Samuel Freeman House
Pomfret vic.
Private

circa 1900

The circa-1900 Freeman House consists of a 2-story, side gable frame dwelling with an original 2-story rear "ell." The house was extended in the 1910s by a 2-story, 1-bay frame addition that terminates in a full-height 3-sided bay on the southeast end of the house. This simple vernacular Victorian dwelling features a wide decorative front gable and modest adornments. Situated approximately 100 feet southwest of Pomfret Road, the house is surrounded by several mature maple trees, and two contributing outbuildings.

Typical of many late Victorian-era farm houses, the Samuel Freeman House represents the growing economic independence of African-Americans in Charles County at the turn of the 20th century. Although modest in adornment, the dwelling was a substantial one for its period and location. The building displays typical features of the local vernacular Victorian style.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-155

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Samuel Freeman House

common/other name _____

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2. Location

=====

street & number 7945 Pomfret Road not for publication _____
city or town Pomfret vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Charles code 017 zip code 20675

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
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<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____

No X

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-155

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>COMMERCIAL</u>	<u>Bar</u>
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular Victorian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation pier: not visible

roof side gable: asphalt shingles

walls frame: asphalt shingles

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-155

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-155

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

Period of Significance circa 1900

Significant Dates circa 1900

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation African American

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 1.44 acres**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The property at 7945 Pomfret Road is designated as Parcel 32 on Map 22, Grid 9 on the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The dwelling at 7945 Pomfret Road has been associated with Parcel 32, Map 22 since its construction circa 1901.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date Oct.14,1998
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

=====

12. Property Owner

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name Salome F. Howard
street & number P.O. Box 14 telephone 301-932-0082
city or town Pomfret state MD zip code 20675

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-155

Section 7 Page 1

Freeman House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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The circa-1900 Freeman House consists of a 2-story, side gable frame dwelling with an original 2-story rear "ell." The house was extended in the 1910s by a 2-story, 1-bay frame addition that terminates in a full-height 3-sided bay on the southeast end of the house. This simple vernacular Victorian dwelling features a wide decorative front gable and modest adornments. Situated approximately 100 feet southwest of Pomfret Road, the house is surrounded by several mature maple trees, and two contributing outbuildings.

Originally occupying a 75-acre tract, the house presently sits on a 1.4-acre lot. The property is level and features a dirt/gravel driveway that approaches the house from Pomfret Road to the northeast. The driveway encircles the house and is lined by several mature maple trees. The mainly open lot is bordered on the southwest by a young forest and scrub area, while the property adjacent to the southeast contains a more recent dwelling of suburban character.

Set on a pier foundation (material not visible), the Samuel Freeman house features wood frame construction, replacement asphalt sheet cladding, and three interior end chimneys, one at the terminus of each original gable end. As seen in a 1932 photograph of the building retained by the original owner's daughter, the house was once fronted by a 1-story, full-width frame porch. Today, a small enclosed gable-roof portico shelters the main entrance. Cornice returns adorn the rear gable end, while the remainder of the eaves are boxed. A 2-story, 1-bay frame addition erected in the 1910s extends the southeast gable end of the building. This extension terminates in a 3-sided bay with a hipped roof.

The facade or northeast elevation, consists of three original bays with one additional bay contained within the 2-story frame extension. The three original bays of the first story hold two windows and the main entry door. Each of these windows holds 6/6 wood sash, while the entry contains a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door surrounded by a square-edged wood casing. Three original window bays, corresponding to the first story bays, pierce the second story of the facade. These also contain 6/6 wood sash. The two stacked window bays of the 2-story extension hold 2/2 wood sash in elongated openings. All of the windows are trimmed with square-edged casings.

The northwest elevation contains only two window bays, both located within the 2-story rear "ell." Stacked vertically and aligned,

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 7 Page 2

Freeman House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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these each contain a single 6/6 wood sash window. No openings pierce the rear gable end of the "ell." However, a 1-story frame shed addition made to the southeast wall of the "ell" contains a single-leaf flush wood door with lights on its southwest face. This addition is clad in vinyl siding and pierced by an additional opening on its southeast face. This opening contains a 6/6 metal sash window. The rear "ell" is pierced by one additional opening. Located on the second story of the southeast wall, this opening holds another 6/6 wood sash window.

The rear, or southwest elevation, of the dwelling contains one first story window and two second story windows. The first story opening contains a single 2/2 sash window and is located within the 1-bay, 2-story frame extension. Above, there are two openings. One pierces the wall of the original house and holds a 6/6 sash window, while the other occupies the extension and contains 2/2 wood sash.

The southeast elevation of the Freeman House consists of the 2-story 3-sided bay of the extension. It contains a regular arrangement of 2/2 wood sash windows, one on each of its three faces on both the first and second story.

As mentioned before, the house has been altered by the addition of the two-story, 3-sided bay extension, the removal of the front porch, and the re-cladding of the exterior with asphalt sheets. In addition, a 1-story frame shed extends off the southeast wall of the rear "ell." This structure may represent the enclosure of a former porch.

OUTBUILDINGS:

Two historic outbuildings contribute to the setting. One, a former summer kitchen and beer hall, has been moved at least two times since its original construction circa 1900. This 1-story front gable frame building with a full-width shed porch at the front once stood northwest of the main house, and may have been originally built as a kitchen. Later, the building was moved to the front of the property along Pomfret Road and the owner, Samuel Freeman, ran a beer hall/bar for local residents in it. The building was again moved to the rear of the current lot, and transformed for use as a summer kitchen. Currently, the building serves as a storage shed. The building features a front gable roof clad in standing seam metal sheets, a concrete block and brick pier foundation, and wood

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Section 7 Page 3

Freeman House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

weatherboard (on the facade) and plywood cladding on the exterior. The front porch has been enclosed and clad in asphalt sheets and shingles. The original facade is pierced by two 6/6 wood sash windows that flank a centered tongue-and-groove vertical board door. The interior is clad in narrow bead board on the walls and ceiling, and features a bar along the back wall and a wood burning stove.

The second contributing outbuilding consists of a 1-story frame chicken house erected in the 1920s or 1930s. Located west of the main dwelling, the building has a shed roof clad in standing seam metal and a elongated rectangular plan. The exterior is clad in board-and-batten siding, and the facade is pierced by two grated windows and a centered tongue-and-groove vertical board door. The chicken house stands on poured concrete piers.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 1

Freeman House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

Typical of many late Victorian-era farm houses, the Samuel Freeman House represents the growing economic independence of African-Americans in Charles County at the turn of the 20th century. Although modest in adornment, the dwelling was a substantial one for its period and location. The building displays typical features of the local vernacular Victorian style.

Built around 1900, the Freeman House is located on a tract of land that was once a part of the estate known as "St. Matthews" owned by the Robey family in the 19th century. The tract became known as the Delozier Farm later in the 19th century when it was divided off from the original estate. In 1900, Samuel Freeman purchased a two-fifths undivided interest in a 75-acre portion of the Delozier Farm. Freeman and his wife were married in 1900, and had the present house built shortly thereafter. The house was later expanded (see section 7) as their family grew. The Freemans had eleven children in all.

Upon his death, Samuel Freeman devised his property to six of his children. His estate was carved into 5 lots, and divided among the heirs. By 1958, Dorothy Veronica Freeman had become the owner of lots three and four of her father's estate. When she died in September 1991, Dorothy V. Freeman appointed her youngest sister, Salome Freeman Howard as her personal representative. Howard purchased the remaining acreage of lots three and four in 1992, and remains the current owner.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-155

Freeman House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-
1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

ARCHITECTURE
ECONOMIC

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single dwelling
COMMERCIAL/Bar

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-155

Freeman House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

Chain of Title:

February 8, 1900: Robert S. & Minnie E. Garner and
William R. & Mary G. Garner of
Washington, DC to Samuel Freeman
\$200
75 acres
one undivided 2/5 interest in part
of a tract called "Part of St.
Matthews" or part of the "Delozier
Farm" on public road from Pomfret to
Pomomkey
W.F.M. Garner (father of grantors)
purchased the property from the
Delozier heirs (date unknown)
Charles County Land Records
Liber 10 Folio 546

February 7, 1955: Samuel Freeman to his six children
Charles County Register of Wills
Liber ERP 24 Folio 389

July 13, 1956: Francis X. Freeman, Mary M. & Lawson
A. Wilson, Dorothy Veronica Freeman
(attorney in fact for Samuel
Nathaniel Freeman), Salome & Herbert
Howard (devisees of Samuel Freeman
of Charles County) to Mathilde Owen
\$1.00
Lots 1-5 in subdivision of the
Samuel Freeman estate
Transferred for the purpose of
partitioning the property
Charles County Land Records
Liber 125 Folio 131

July 13, 1956: Mathilde Owen to Samuel Nathaniel
Freeman & Dorothy Veronica Freeman
\$1.00
Lot #4 on plat of subdivision of
Samuel Freeman estate = 12.23 acres

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Freeman House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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July 12, 1958:

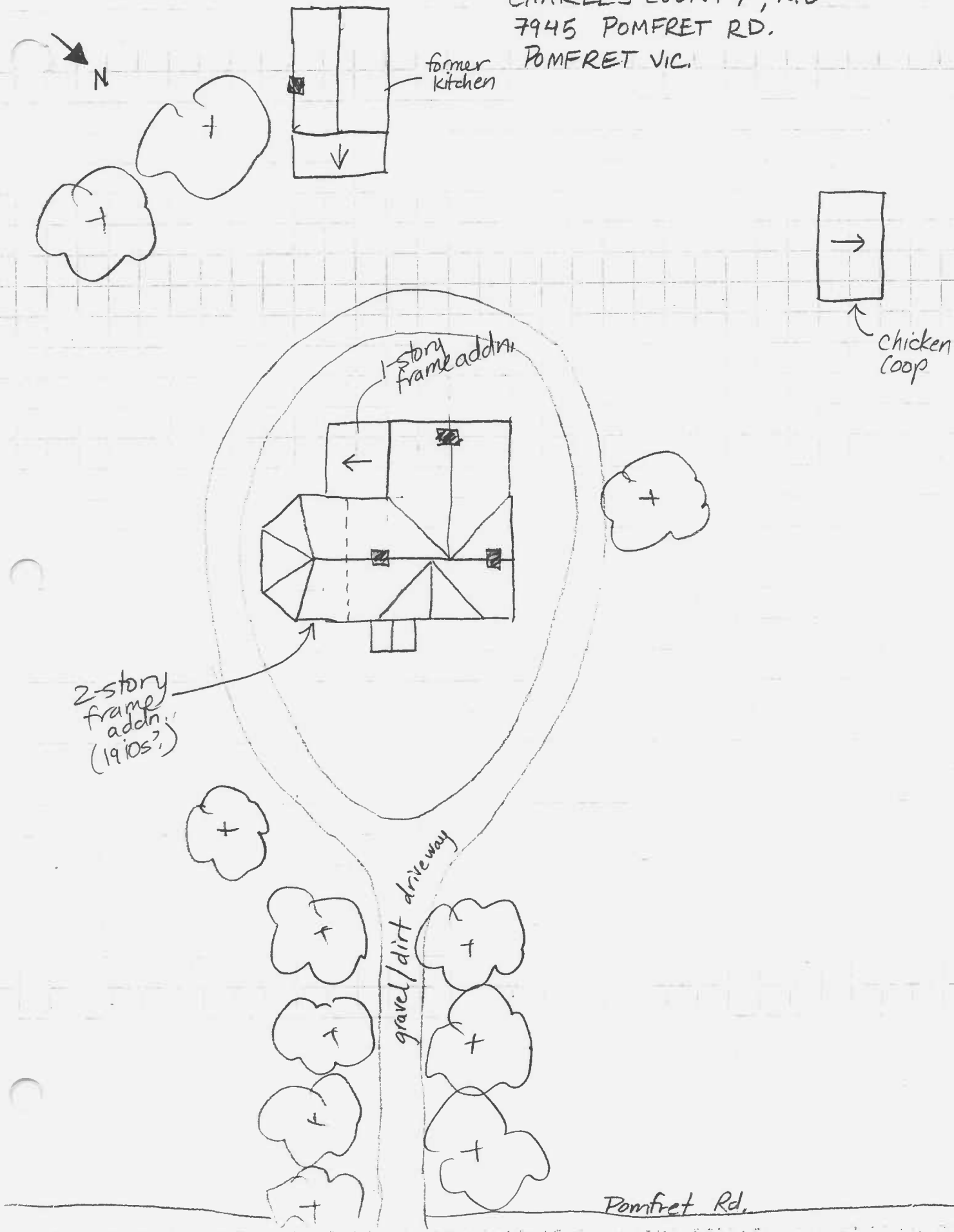
Salome A. & Herbert Howard, Mary M.
& Lawson Wilson, Francis X. & Rose
Freeman to Dorothy Veronica Freeman
balance of Samuel Freeman estate
lands
Samuel Nathaniel Freeman died April
6, 1958, leaving his interest in his
father's land to his sister Dorothy
Charles County Land Records
Liber 136 Folio 460

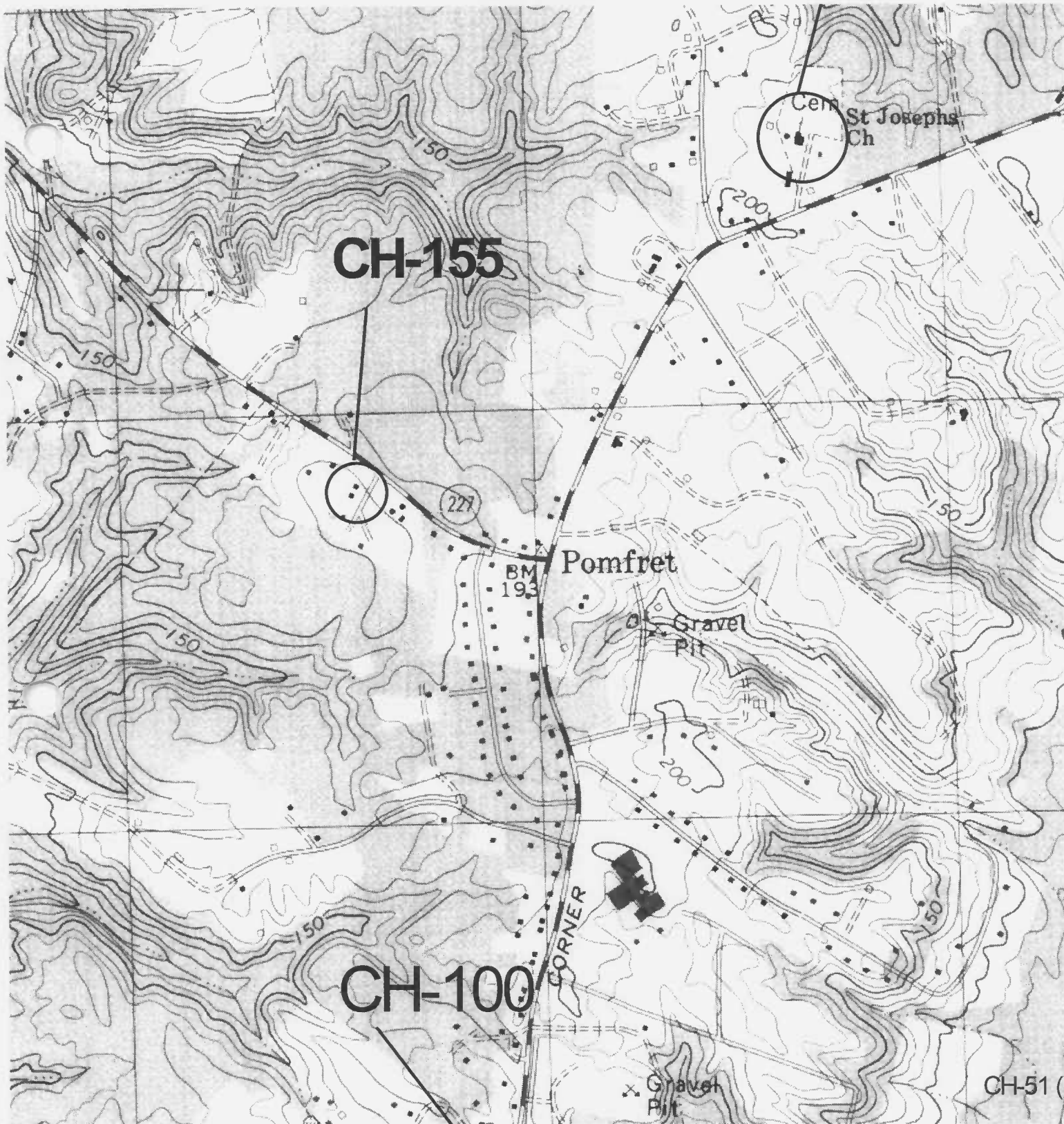
July 6, 1992:

Salome Freeman Howard, Personal
Representative for the estate of
Dorothy Veronica Freeman (wife of
Samuel Freeman) to Salome Freeman
Howard
1.44 acres
Dorothy V. Freeman died September
13, 1991, estate No. 8886-91
Plat Book PCM 6, Folio 136, May 2,
1956
Charles County Land Records
Liber 1675 Folio 95

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
10/98 (K.G. SMITH)

SAMUEL FREEMAN HOUSE CH-155
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
7945 POMFRET RD.
POMFRET VIC.





Samuel Freeman House
Charles County, MD

CH-155

PORT TOBACCO, MD QUAD



CH-155

SAMUEL FREEMAN HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/68

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SOUTH

1 OF 4



CH-155

SAMUEL FREEMAN HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING NORTH
2 OF 4



CH-155

SAMUEL FREEMAN HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

FORMER KITCHEN, LOOKING WEST

3 OF 4



CH-155

SAMUEL FREEMAN HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

CHICKEN COOP, LOOKING NW

4 OF 4